

WAIL FROM UNDERWRITERS.

Losses Heavy Resulting From State Legislation.

COMBINED EXPERIENCE NIL.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 13.—The fire insurance companies operating in New York state lost more than \$5,000,000 during the last year. This condition is shown in the annual report of State Superintendent of Insurance Payn, to the legislature:

"The statistics presented indicate that the results of the fire insurance business for 1899 have been disastrous to the insurance companies as a body, and had it not been for the appreciation in the market value of their securities the loss would have been still greater.

"The fire premiums received were \$19,463,725.79; fire losses incurred \$18,045,938.84. The estimated amount of expense for the transaction of this business is \$6,487,908.60, which, if added to the incurred losses, makes a total of \$24,532,847.44, showing as compared with the premium receipts, an apparent net excess of \$5,070,121.65.

"In looking for the cause I found that the losses through the country in the companies representing to this department have been increased during the year by \$14,466,441.73. Examination also shows that the average rate of premium charged by all companies has materially decreased from year to year.

"During the last four years many state legislatures have passed anti-compact laws, which have prevented companies from utilizing their combined experience and judgment in determining the adequacy of premiums for fire insurance and in enforcing rules and regulations designed for the purpose of preventing fires.

"The continued and continuing assaults upon the insurance companies threaten serious impairment of their resources and their ultimate destruction, unless this crusade is stopped."

He recommends that the state, and not each individual company, shall pay for the cost of each examination of its financial condition made by the state department. He recommends also the repeal of the retaliatory laws.

Will Take Two Years.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Judge William Taft, president of the Philippine commission, said to a representative of the Associated Press that he would not remain in the islands longer than two years and that on his return to this country he would resume the practice of law. He would not, he said, be appointed at any time governor general of the Philippines. He realized the fact that the mission of the commission was a most difficult one, but he had strong hopes of being partly instrumental in giving to the Philippines a civil government and a code which would secure for them the fullest possible measure of liberty and security to life and property. This he thought was worthy the ambition of any man and though he did not doubt that the work in contemplation would be beset by many serious difficulties that fact did not deter him in the least.

McKinley Honored.

Washington, Feb. 12.—President McKinley has been notified of his election as an honorary member of Columbia lodge Master Masons of London, England. The notification was given by Colonel J. H. Taylor, the master of Columbia lodge. The certificate of election is now on its way to this country.

Election Officers Sentenced.

Philadelphia, Feb. 13.—Samuel R. Markley, Joseph Hogan and Frank Taylor, alias Pierce, were sentenced to imprisonment for two years in the Eastern penitentiary, and to pay a fine of \$500 each for frauds perpetrated at the November election. The men were election officers and were convicted of stuffing the ballot box and making fraudulent returns of the votes cast.

Colonel Stone's Slayer Caught.

Juarez, Mex., Feb. 10.—James Walcher, who murdered Colonel John Stone at Kingfisher, O. T., January 12, is under arrest here. Mayor Ouate received a telegram from the City of Mexico, saying that Ambassador Clayton asked the arrest, and that Walcher was thought to be in Juarez. Walcher was arrested at the postoffice, where he received mail under the name of James Wilson. Walcher at first maintained his innocence, but at the jail he broke down. Newspaper clippings telling of the murder, and letters from his wife and daughter, expressing anxiety for his safety, were found on him.

An Old Fiddle.

Kansas City, Kas., Feb. 13.—In the year 1516, 384 years ago or nearly four centuries, Gaspard Duffo-Pruer, a German manufacturer of musical instruments, made five violins. Four of these instruments are in existence today, three in this country and one, in a monastery in Europe. One of the three ancient violins in this country is owned by Dr. Eli Swartz, of this city, who has owned it for forty-five years, and which has been in the Swartz family for more than 100 years.

STILL MORE COMPLICATED.

Two State Governments Acting at Cross Purposes.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 13.—A large number of political friends of Governor Taylor held a conference which was protracted.

Governor Taylor stated that there were two courses to be pursued. First, to sign the Louisville agreement; second, to quietly withdraw the troops, allow the legislature to reconvene in the capitol building in Frankfort, to call off the session held in London, and to ignore the Louisville agreement entirely. Several speeches were made and it was soon apparent that the sentiment of the gathering was very strongly in favor of the second course, and this was adopted.

Orders were at once issued to General Collier to prepare for the departure of the troops and in a very short time a large number of them were ready to leave. Six companies have left and more are to follow, only a small detachment remaining. These will be retained only as a peace guard and will in no way be obtruded upon the presence of the legislature.

The action of Governor Taylor returns the gubernatorial fight to the exact position it occupied on the day following the Goebel assassination, with the additional complication that there was but one legislature and one governor, in fact, whereas there are now two claimants for the position, and two separate bodies, each claiming to be the law making power of Kentucky.

Wainwright Honored.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Rear Admiral E. V. McNair, who has recently been on sick leave has, on account of continued ill health, asked to be detached from the superintendency of the naval academy at Annapolis and be given sick leave for an extended period, and his request has been granted by the navy department. Admiral McNair is the ranking rear admiral in the navy, being second only to Admiral Dewey. The president has designated Commander Richard Wainwright to succeed Admiral McNair as superintendent of the naval academy. This is a great compliment to an officer of his rank and years, and is due to his exceptional ability and the signal services rendered by him during the Spanish-American war while in command of the auxiliary cruiser Gloucester.

Damage Suit Against Mexico.

Wichita, Feb. 13.—Judge Aikman of El Dorado and D. C. Dille of Leon are preparing to file a claim for damages for \$25,000 against the Mexican government for the death of Edward Turner of this city in a Mexican prison. It will be alleged in the petition that Turner came to his death from the result of cruelty and starvation by the prison officials at Orizaba, where he was confined. All of Ambassador Clayton's efforts to secure the release or trial of the men came to naught. Turner appealed to Governor Stanley and the authorities at Washington for help. The case was referred to Ambassador Clayton, who was however, unable to assist them, and Turner finally died a miserable death from cruelty and starvation.

Denied in London.

London, Feb. 9.—The officials of the United States embassy deny that any negotiations in regard to Alaska are proceeding between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Choate, the United States ambassador, or that a concession of a free port in Alaska is included in the Nicaragua agreement, as cabled from Washington. A question will be asked in the house of commons Thursday as to whether Great Britain has relinquished all her rights under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

More Injunctions.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 10.—Judge William H. Taft, who has just been appointed as president of the new Philippine commission, gave notice to counsel that on next Monday he would hear arguments on the petition of the state officers of Kentucky other than the governor and lieutenant governor for a restraining order against the three members of the Kentucky state board of election commissioners and the contestants for state officers other than those of governor and lieutenant governor.

Fearful Ravages of Influenza.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—The influenza which has spread throughout Germany now numbers 60,000 victims in Munich. In Berlin every bed in every hospital is occupied and the hospital physicians, hundreds of whom have been stricken with the malady, are scarcely able to care for their patients. Among those believed to be dying is Dr. Lieber, leader of the Centrists, or clerical party in the reichstag, who has received the sacraments.

Methodists' Offering.

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—Regarding the intention of the Methodist Episcopal church of this country to collect \$20,000,000 as a Twentieth century thank offering, Dr. Thomas Milben stated that the work was progressing smoothly and that the entire sum will doubtless be collected by the end of 1901. It is expected that England will raise a similar fund amounting to \$10,000,000. This immense sum will be used for educational, charitable and church purposes.

OFFICIALS DUMFOUNDED.

Buller's Third Advance Not Successful, a Little Bit.

"NOT PRESSING ADVANCE."

Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Feb. 12.—The British who were in possession of the kopje at Molens Drift abandoned it after a bombardment by Boer cannon and retired across the Tugela river to their former position. A desultory cannonade is proceeding at the Tugela, but otherwise everything is quiet.

An armored train made a sortie from Chieveley towards Colenso and landed 2,000 British troops on the right of the Boer position. The Boers immediately crossed the river and made an attack with rifles and artillery, forcing the withdrawal of both the train and the troops to Chieveley.

London, Feb. 12.—London accepts as true the Boer statement that General Buller has failed again. These statements were passed by the British censor at Aden and are read in the light of Mr. Balfour's announcement in the commons that General Buller is not pressing his advance.

When shown the Boer dispatch, the war officials appeared utterly dumfounded. Apparently they had not the least suspicion of the possibility of such an outcome of the operations.

Legislature at Louisville.

Louisville, Feb. 13.—Upon the receipt of Governor Taylor's proclamation recalling the legislature to Frankfort there was a conference held here. At its conclusion Governor Beckham sent to the legislature a message reciting the failure of the peace negotiations, and the conditions existing at Frankfort as seen by him and recommending that the legislature continue its session in Louisville, as he could not guarantee their personal security nor protect them from unwarranted interference at Frankfort.

Acting upon this suggestion, the legislature decided to remain in Louisville for the present.

Lack of Navy Officers.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The navy is short of enlisted men and also officers. As for the former, although the shortage is about 1,000 men, there is already congressional authorization for the employment of more. With the increased number of ships in commission, and the additions being steadily made to the navy, it is no longer possible to give naval officers the turns of shore service to which they are entitled. It is expected that the administration will make an effort to have the class of cadets at Annapolis increased to about 100.

The Oldest Justice.

Topoka, Feb. 13.—The State Historical Society is to have a life-sized portrait in oil of Judge William Margrave, of Fort Scott. Judge Margrave is the oldest justice of the peace in Kansas. The portrait is to be the gift of E. F. Ware, until recently president of the Historical Society. Mr. Ware has had it painted by a Fort Scott artist. Judge Margrave was appointed a justice of the peace by Governor Reeder when the territory of Kansas was organized in 1855, and he has held the office continuously ever since.

Library For St. Joseph.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 12.—The board of education decided to submit a proposition to the citizens to vote bonds for \$100,000 to erect a library building. The public schools are so overcrowded that a proposition to vote bonds for \$100,000 to erect another school building was also sanctioned.

Arresting Absentees.

London, Ky., 12.—The sergeants-at-arms of the senate and house are busy serving warrants upon absentee members. It is determined to secure a quorum in both branches of the legislature. It is understood that this action is upon instructions received from Governor Taylor.

Louisville, Feb. 12.—The democratic members of the legislature met here today. There was a quorum of the house present, and enough members of both houses present to form a quorum for a joint session.

Burial of Major Armstrong.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The remains of the late Major Frank C. Armstrong, of Eldorado, Kas., who died at Manila on December 4, from malarial blood poisoning, were interred at Arlington with all the solemnity of a military funeral. The funeral party comprised his widow and mother, Mrs. Jane Armstrong; Mrs. R. H. Hazlett, of Eldorado, Kas., and Frank Smith, of Columbus, O. The services at the grave were conducted by Chaplain Pierce.

Havana Strike Failed.

Havana, Feb. 13.—The strike of cigar-makers is settled. The men asked on what conditions they could return to work and the masters replied that they could return on the conditions existing before the strike. This reply they accepted. The cost of the strike to the manufacturers has been practically nothing. The strikers themselves lost \$100,000. The Herald tells Samuel Gompers to return to the United States, declaring he came here to create disturbances.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

What is Being Done in the Fifty-Sixth General Assembly.

FEBRUARY SIXTH.

Senator Aldrich, chairman of the finance committee, offered an amendment to the finance bill that nothing in it should interfere with efforts to secure international bimetalism. Senator Penrose (Pa.) offered another providing that the bill shall not be construed to affect the present legal tender quality of silver dollars.

Senator Chandler offered one in the same line, and Senator Jones (Ark.) gave notice of an amendment providing for an urgency fund of \$50,000,000 in treasury notes.

The Senate passed a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a woman commissioner to represent the United States and the National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution at the unveiling of the statue of Lafayette at Paris.

FEBRUARY SEVEN.

The Senate committee on foreign relations met to consider the Nicaragua canal treaty. There was some opposition to it yet there is likely to be a favorable report.

The Senate agreed to the conference on the urgent deficiency bill, thus passing the measure. Senator Foraker gave notice of taking up the bill providing a government for Puerto Rico. An agreement was made to give right of way to the financially embarrassed Erie canal.

Senator Penrose (Pa.) introduced a bill extending the pension laws to persons who served in the civil war.

The house resumed consideration of the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill. The discussion of this bill was closed by Mr. Shafter (Cal.) in a speech in favor of mediation by the United States in the South African war. Debate on the Puerto tariff bill is to commence on the 14th, in a speech in favor of mediation by the United States in the South African war.

The house committee on military affairs acted favorably on a bill to establish soldiers' homes at Johnson City, Tenn., to cost \$250,000.

FEBRUARY EIGHT.

Senator Penrose presented a resolution requiring the president to detail naval vessels to go to Delagoa Bay to maintain our commercial interests in the Indian Ocean.

The Senate committee on Agriculture heard Governor Brady of Alaska on farming opportunities in that territory.

Senator Depew (N. Y.) read a letter from Theodore Roosevelt in support of the commission contradicting statements in Senator Pettigrew's speech of last week, and criticizing Senators who have the word of Arguingdale above that of Schurman and Admiral Dewey.

Senator Penrose introduced a bill authorizing the printing of the proceedings of the G. A. R. encampment as a government document, and for their distribution among the G. A. R. posts.

The house received majority and minority reports on the tariff bill for Puerto Rico.

Mr. McClellan (N. Y.) introduced a bill providing for the purchase by the United States, from New York, of the Erie canal, and for its conversion into a ship canal, at a cost of \$15,000,000.

FEBRUARY NINE.

Credentials of John W. Gear were presented, and he took the oath of office for Iowa for full term commencing March 4, 1901.

Senator Baker (Kan.) introduced a bill authorizing the construction of a telephone system in the Indian Territory and to have laws enacted to construct and operate a telephone system in the Indian Territory and to have laws enacted to construct and operate a telephone system in the Indian Territory.

A bill to create a department of commerce, with a cabinet officer. Under it the patent office will be transferred to the department.

The Senate passed bills: giving \$200,000 for public lands in Dewey; \$200 for a monument to mark to site of the Fort Kearney massacre; granting to the State of Kansas the Fort Hays military reservation, of 7,000 acres. The Senate then adjourned to attend the funeral of General Lawton.

In the house a few bills were passed but there were none of special interest in the west. The committee on public lands reported favorably on the bill allowing a second homestead to a man who has consumed or has lost his homestead without a relinquishment for value.

The house then adjourned for the funeral of General Lawton.

FEBRUARY TEN.

Senator Jones (Ark.) introduced a free silver substitute for the pending currency bill.

Senator Allen offered a resolution of active sympathy for the Boers. There was not a dozen Senators who had their places, and they were careless and the resolution was passed. Allen however bowed to the request of the president of the Senate to reconsider and laid over.

Senator Nelson offered an amendment to the currency bill, permitting the organization of national banks in towns of 4,000 and over with \$25,000 of capital.

The Senate in executive session ratified the extradition treaty with Peru, and the Mexican boundary treaty.

At last night's session of the house a number of private pension bills were passed and 35 more of them were favorably acted upon by the committee on pensions. There was a quorum present. The house held no session today.

FEBRUARY TWELVE.

The Senate debate on the finance bill was of unusual interest. The public galleries were crowded. The bill was passed by a vote of 60 to 30, followed by Senators Wolcott and Butler.

COMPLETE MARKET REPORTS.

Kansas City.	
CATTLE—Common to heavy	3 85 @ 5 50
HOGS—Choice to heavy	4 70 @ 5 75
WHEAT—No. 2 hard	63 @ 73 1/2
COHN—No. 2	2 30 @ 2 34
RYE—No. 2	2 00 @ 2 05
HAY—Choice timothy	9 00 @ 9 50
Choice prairie	6 75 @ 7 00
BUTTER	20 @ 23
EGGS	11

Chicago.	
WHEAT—No. 2 hard	64 1/2 @ 65
CORN—No. 2	22 1/2 @ 23
OATS—No. 2	22 1/2 @ 23 1/2

St. Louis Live Stock.	
BEEVES	3 50 @ 6 30
STOCKERS & FEEDERS	2 50 @ 5 00
SOUTHERN STEERS	3 20 @ 4 55

Cotton.	
Liverpool	Uplands. Gulf.
New York	4 31-32d
Galveston	5 9-16c @ 13-16c

Wichita Grain.	
WHEAT—Open High Low Close	Today Yesterday
May	68 1/2 68 3/4 68 1/2 68 1/2
CORN	69 1/2 69 3/4 69 1/2 69 1/2
May	31 1/2 31 3/4 31 1/2 31 1/2
OATS	23 1/2 23 3/4 23 1/2 23 1/2
July	23 1/2 23 3/4 23 1/2 23 1/2

Live Stock.	
HOGS	No Sales
CATTLE	No Sales

Chicago Live Stock.	
BEEVES	\$4 00 @ 5 00
COWS AND HEIFERS	3 40 @ 5 00
CANNERS	3 10 @ 4 25
STOCKERS & FEEDERS	2 25 @ 4 80
TEXAS FEED BEEVES	4 00 @ 5 00
SHEEP—Fair to choice	4 00 @ 5 00
HOGS	4 80 @ 5 05

THE LATEST NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Lawton fund has reached \$98,054.

Havana is entirely clear of yellow fever.

Dayton, Ohio has had a very destructive fire.

Revenue collected in the Philippine Islands during January amounted to \$557,308.

Harrisonville, Mo., has lost its principal business block by fire, with a loss of \$60,000.

Puerto Rico's population is 967,679. The census of 1897 showed a population of 808,708.

John Luscomb, a cattle feeder of Jackson county, Mo., has been arrested for "Gilletting."

Phil D. Armour, Jr., of Chicago, died suddenly at Montecito, near Santa Barbara, California.

The Marine hospital laboratory at Washington is manufacturing serum for bubonic plague.

In New York city all flags were placed at half mast during the funeral of General Lawton at Washington.

The only colored member of congress is Mr. White, of Tarboro, N. C. He is a lawyer and a graduate of Harvard.

Arrangements are being made in many cities for the celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12.

St. Joseph, Mo., has made a canvass for a city directory upon which an estimate is made giving the population at 82,540.

Buffalo Jones has had a hearing before the house committee on public lands concerning his scheme for a national reserve of land on which to breed buffaloes.

The area of the Transvaal is 119,139 square miles, or about as large as one-half of Texas, or a little smaller than Nevada. In the Orange Free State are only 48,326 square miles, or a little less than in Louisiana.

A quantity of dynamite and giant powder in the Dickinson Arms Co's store at Little Rock, exploded. It caused a fire which destroyed half a dozen business houses and broke \$1,500 worth of glass throughout the city.

The case which will decide the constitutionality of the law creating the Kansas Court of Visitation, is likely to be heard by the supreme court in March or April.

The total collections for the port of Havana for the 301 working days of the year 1899 was \$1,097,154, making an average daily collection of \$35,867.

The coke maker's strike in Cleveland, Ohio, resulted in an advance in their wages to \$2.50 a day, with time and half for over hours, and double pay for Sunday work.

Thirty thousand persons, many Americans among them, witnessed the toboggan races at Christiana, Norway.

Colonel Richard W. Thompson died February 9, at his home in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was 91 years old; the oldest statesman of rank for many years.

The disbursing officer, U. S. Army, at San Francisco, was robbed of a number of checks. A Memphis national bank lost \$1,000 which it advanced on one of these checks which called for \$5,640.

The great tunnel under the Alps to be twelve and a half miles long, is now completed a distance of two and one-fifth miles.

Russian newspapers openly advise profiting by Great Britain's difficulties to realize on the old scheme to secure Russian ports on the Indian ocean and Mediterranean.

The Union Pacific is said to have closed contracts to construct a tunnel in Wyoming to cost \$1,500,000. Its object is to shorten lines and reduce grades.

Austrian Court Customs.
In the Austrian court it is contrary to custom for perishable articles to appear twice on the imperial table. The result is large perquisites for the attendants. To one man fall all un-corked bottles, to another the wine left in the glasses, to another the joints, and to still another the game or the sweets. Every morning a sort of market is held in the basement of the palace, where the Viennese come to purchase the remains.—New York Post.

Any fool man with money shows up well on the retina of a woman's eye.

Cheap notoriety is the most expensive luxury one can indulge in.

The Best Prescription for Chills
and Fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is purely iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price, 50c.

Some men seem to be troubled with fatty degeneration of morals.

Read the Advertisements.
You will enjoy this publication much better if you will get in the habit of reading the advertisements; they will afford a most interesting study and some extremely bargains. Our advertisers are reliable and send what they advertise.

Some men are like blotters; they bear many good impressions, but are of little value.

Important to Mothers.
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it is

Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Hatcher*
In Use For Over 30 Years.
The Kind You Have Always Bought.

The most delightful feature of a sleigh ride on a cold night is the arrival at your destination.

AVOID DANGER.
The Danger of Catarrh Ointments That Contain Mercury.

This journal, although more particularly devoted to all that interests finance, commerce and manufacturing, is nevertheless always awake to the need and wants of our readers, and agreed that it can be induced to pass such suitable and stringent laws as will effectually prevent their appearance on the market. In the meantime, the people must look out for themselves. In this matter, we have made a most careful and painstaking investigation, realizing the confidence that would be placed in our reply. Our medical staff employed to make such investigations were most favorably impressed with the preparation known as Hall's catarrh cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co. of Toledo, Ohio, and agreed that it is the best and most reliable of our highest indorsement. Many of the catarrh remedies on the market contain mercury, which destroys the sense of smell and deranges the whole system when entering through the mucous surfaces. From some containing no mercury. It is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. We have no interest whatever in this matter beyond faithfully serving our readers, and as our indorsement is extended without reward of any kind, and is wholly un solicited by this company, and will be received with the full credence that all our statements have met with for the past eighteen years.—Southern Review of Commerce.

Written words are the pictures of thought.

A FORMER AMERICAN SAYS.
Doubled Their Cultivated Lands and More Than Doubled Their Stock.

The following letter, written by Mr. John Cummings of Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada, formerly of Washington, to a friend in the United States, is only one of a hundred similar cases, and what was done by Mr. Cummings can more easily be done today by any good, sober and industrious farmer who chooses to make his home in the dominion.

Dear Sir: You want to know how I got along since I came into Northern Alberta. I am happy to inform you that I am not ashamed to tell.

We located five miles northeast of Wetaskiwin; left Farmington, Wash., on the 29th day of May, driving all the way. We had time to build our log house the first fall, and to make us comfortable for the family and stock. We then built four stables, 18x20 inside, so that we could put everything inside them when the cold got down to the fifties, and worked hard getting up the stables, and got through dubbing on the 1st of December; but to our surprise, we had no use for the stables only for the milk cow and two spans of horses. The balance of the horses lived on the prairie all winter, and took care of themselves. The doors of two stables were left open for them to go into in a cold time, but they would not do it, but stayed out on the prairie the coldest night we had and looked as spry as crickets.

I can go ten rods back of my house and count ten residents. I know all of their circumstances. Every one of them have doubled their cultivated land, and doubled their animals, and a great deal more. All of us are comparatively out of debt and an unusually big crop to thresh and prospects of a fair price, and I expect we are as well contented as I could be as there is to be found from Florida to the Klondike.

My son bought two pounds of twine to the acre, and when we started to bind some barley we found that instead of taking two pounds to the acre, we was taking nearly five pounds. Then you ought to have seen him hitch up a team and make for town for 100 pounds more. I cannot say how it will thresh. All I can say is that it is well-headed, and takes an enormous amount of twine.